# Heritage of Our Fathers

Preaching the Word of God with the Lutheran Confessions



"STAY DRESSED
FOR ACTION AND
KEEP YOUR
LAMPS BURNING."

LUKE 12:35

**Return of Christ to Judgment (I)**

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*Trinity is a member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (www.clclutheran.org)*



# November 14, 2026

Pentecost 26

**Serving Us Today**
**Organist**: Kathy Conway
**Greeters:** Tom and Molly Bettinger

## We Enter God's House and Prepare for Worship

**Pre-service Meditation:** Psalm 31 **(hymnal, p. 130)**

**Pre-service Prayer:**

Dear Jesus, teach me to look with expectation for Your return on Judgment Day. Move my heart away from earthly attraction and distraction in order to desire You above all else. Keep me firm in faith so that I am prepared when you return. Motivate me to be active and busy, using the gifts You have given me to Your glory and for the work of Your Kingdom. Amen.

## **Order of Worship** (WS2000 pp. 12ff)
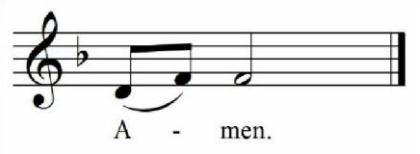
*When the congregation is asked to stand, please do so only if you are able. You may remain seated if standing is difficult.*

### Welcome to Worship

### **Hymn:** 703 – Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

**Pastor**: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation**




### Confession and Absolution

**P**: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

**C**: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

**P**: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

(*Worship Supplement* p. 13)

**Congregation** (sings):

**Lord, have mercy on us.**
**Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.**

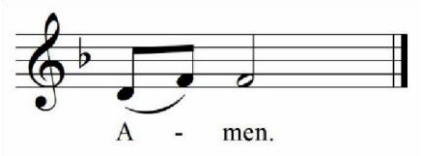
**Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise; Of heav'nly joy and peace on earth we sing. We worship You, to You our hearts we raise, Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son, You bore for us the load of this world's sin. O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won, Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.**

**Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord, at God's right hand in majesty most high: Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored, With all the heav'nly host we glorify.**

**P**: Let us pray… (Prayer of the Day)

**Congregation**







**Old Testament Lesson**:
*Genesis 19:15-29*

God's righteous anger and judgment on the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah was not stopped. God's mercy toward Abraham and his nephew, Lot was abundant.

*As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city." But he lingered. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. And as they brought them out, one said, "Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away." And Lot said to them, "Oh, no, my lords. Behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have shown me great kindness in saving my life. But I cannot escape to the hills, lest the disaster overtake me and I die. Behold, this city is near enough to flee*

*to, and it is a little one. Let me escape there—is it not a little one?—and my life will be saved!" He said to him, "Behold, I grant you this favor also, that I will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken. Escape there quickly, for I can do nothing till you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar. The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven. And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the Lord. And he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and toward all the land of the valley, and he looked and, behold, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a furnace. So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had lived.*

**Responsive Psalm:** Psalm 31:1,3,14-17

**Pastor:** In you, O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame;
**Cong: in your righteousness deliver me!**

**P:** For you are my rock and my fortress;
**C: and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me;**

**P:** I trust in you, O Lord;
**C: I say, "You are my God."**

**P:** My times are in your hand;
**C: rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!**

**P:** Make your face shine on your servant;
**C: save me in your steadfast love!**

**P:** O Lord, let me not be put to shame,
**C: for I call upon you;**

**Gospel Lesson:** *Matthew 25:1-13*

Jesus' parable of the ten virgins urges us on toward readiness.

Jesus is the bridegroom of the Church (all believers). He has gone to prepare a home for His bride. He will return suddenly and without warning. May we always be among the wise—watchful, waiting, ready.

*[Jesus said], "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.*

**P**: Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and treasure it!

**C** (sings): **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Confession of Faith:** The Apostolic Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

**Hymn:** 609 – Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

**The Sermon**

**Text**: *2 Peter 2:4-9; 3:1-13*

*For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment. . .*

*This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill*

*his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies[i] will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.*

*Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

# "Take Heed!
# Today Is one Day Closer to Judgment Day."

III. God Knows how to rescue and how to keep for judgment

II. Remember the Words of the Prophets & Jesus

III. Since Judgment is coming, what should we do?

**Congregation** (sings): Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold me with Your Spirit free.

**Hymn:** 605 – The World Is Very Evil

**Prayer**

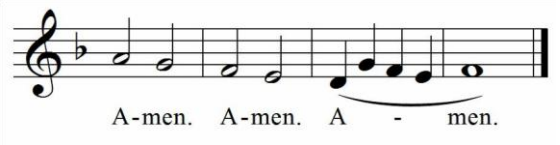
**Offering Prayer** (Congregation sings)

Bring to this sacred altar the gifts His goodness gave,
The golden sheaves of harvest, the souls Christ died to save Your hearts lay down before Him when at His feet you fall,
And with your lives adore Him who gave His life for all.

(Worship Supplement: 793:3)

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Benediction** (Pastor)




**Hymn:** 400 – Take My Life and Let It Be

**Silent Prayer**

All Scripture readings unless otherwise noted are from the ESV. The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.




**Welcome** to all who have gathered for worship this morning. We especially welcome guests and visitors—please sign our guest book in the north entry. We look forward to having you worship with us again!




**Thank-offerings** may be left in the offering plate in the back of the church or mailed to the church. Electronic donations may be made via our website (Spokanelutheran.com).




Donna Zarling has been released from the hospital and is continuing her recovery at Regency at Northpointe.



## This Week's Schedule

*(If the Lord wills we shall do this or that)*

**Today**

9:15 a.m. Bible Class with Call discussion
10:30 a.m.Worship Service
11:45 a.m.Church Council, Women's Circle

**Next Saturday** (November 21)

9:15 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Worship Service

**Greeter:** Jeanne Helke

# News & Notes

**Church Council and the Women's Circle** meet today following the worship service.

***Members of Trinity,***

*Thank you for the get-well card sent on behalf of the congregation and for the individual well wishes extended during my surgery recovery. Especially, thank you all for your prayers leading up to the surgery and since. The Lord has certainly blessed the surgery and recovery thus far. I am incredibly thankful to Him for that blessing and for all of your care, concern, and requests taken to the throne of Heaven on my behalf.*

*Together under His grace,*

*Pastor E.*

**Pastor Eichstadt** continues to deliberate concerning the current calls he serves—Gethsemane and Trinity's vacancy call, and the call he has received—Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Phoenix. Bible Class time will be used this morning to discuss these calls and the deliberation. Individuals are welcome to share their thoughts with Pastor E. directly at any time. Your prayers for the Lord's blessing on this process are welcomed.

**The Christmas party** will be right after church on December 5th. More details coming soon. There will be no refreshment fellowship time following the service in November (November 28).

**Parent Resource Note**: The Gethsemane church library has a series of books titled, "A Guide for the Christian Family" – resources for teaching and discussing human sexuality in the light of God's Word. There are five books in each of the boys and girls sets – 3-5 years old, 6-8 years old, 9-11 years old, 12-14 years old, and 14 and up. There is also a "For Parents" volume. If you would like more information or to access these books, please talk to Pastor E.



## November Cleaners

**Sanctuary:** Bettinger
**North Entry:** Lux **Basement:** Helke

## News from around the Church of the Lutheran Confession

**Call News**: Calls: Pastor Stefan Sonnenfeld of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, MI, has ***received*** the call to St. Luke's Ev. Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD / Pastor Chad Seybt of Morning Star Lutheran Church, Fairchild, WI, Peace with God Lutheran Church, Onalaska, WI, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Melrose, WI, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Millston, WI, has ***received*** the call to Trinity Lutheran Church, Watertown, SD, and Zion Lutheran Church, Hidewood Township, SD / Pastor Wayne Eichstadt of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA, is ***deliberating*** the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ.

**Kinship Sponsors Needed** - After the CLC declared fellowship with the Bangladesh Lutheran Church Mission (BLCM) in 2020, the CLC Board of Missions has been working together with the BLCM to establish a local seminary for pastoral training. There is currently one BLCM pastor serving 1,715 souls across 19 congregations and 14 preaching stations in a country that is 95% Muslim. However, this January, 14 men will begin their pastoral

training as the inaugural seminary class of the BLCM. Sponsors are needed to help these men receive their training so that they may join in the abundant work in Bangladesh. The cost of a sponsorship will be $60 per month. To begin a sponsorship or for more information, please text, call, or email Dan Roehl. (Cell: 507-381-2042; Email: danroehl@hotmail.com)

## We Believe & Confess

It is also taught among us that or Lord Jesus Christ will return on the last day for judgment and will raise all the dead, to give eternal life and everlasting joy to believers and the elect but to condemn ungodly men and the Devil to hell and eternal punishment.

Rejected, therefore, are [those] who teach that the Devil and condemned men will not suffer eternal pain and torment.

Rejected, too, are certain . . . opinions which are even now making an appearance and which teach that, before the resurrection of the dead, saints and godly men will possess a worldly kingdom and annihilate all the godless.

***The Augsburg Confession,* Article XVII**
**Translator Theodore G. Tappert / ©1959 Fortress Press**

**Additional Reading in the Confessions**: *The Apology of the Augsburg Confession* Article XVII

Many Christians waste their talents (and remember every talent is a special gift from God). This often happens when entire lives are spent seeking only material success. There is nothing wrong with success, but it must come from God and it must not be the primary goal of the Christian. The goal of a Christian is to use the talents God has given for His glory and for the purpose of His Kingdom. Keep in mind the story about the shoemaker who said: "I am first and foremost a Christian. I only make shoes to pay my expenses."